

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /110 W

-----010552Z 088135 /15

R 310935Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7208

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCEUR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0675

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MR, MO, AG, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: "JEUNE AFRIQUE" ON SAHARA WAR

1. IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS, "JEUNE AFRIQUE" HAS EXAMINED IN DEPTH TWO OF FOUR PROTAGONISTS IN SAHAR DISPUTE AND ONGOING GUERRILLA WAR. MARCH 11 ISSUE (NUMBER 844) FEATURED COVER STORY INTERVIEW WITH POLISARIO/SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC FOREIGN MINISTER (AND EX-MAURITANIAN DIPLOMAT) IBRAHIM DERWIISH (HAKII); APRIL 1 ISSUE (NUMBER 847) CARRIED THREE-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH BY SAME JA REPORTER. WE COMMEND BOTH "JEUNE AFRIQUE" STORIES TO ALL SAHARA WATCHERS.

2. DERWIISH INSISTED POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THEIR MILITARY SUCCESSES ARE ACCURATE AND THAT CASUALTY FIGURES--  
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FOR BOTH SIDES--ARE CORRECT. HE ASSERTED POLISARIO CONTROLS ONE-THIRD OF MAURITANIA, CAN RANGE COUNTRY AT WILL, OPERATES OUT OF BASES IN MAURITANIA AND FINALLY OFFERED TO DELIVER JA REPORTER WHEREVER HE WOULD LIKE TO GO INSIDE MAURITANIA. HE DECLARED SAHARANS ARE A PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, THAT THEY DEMAND RESPECT FOR THEIR EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE INDEPENDENT AND

FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

3. RESPONDING TO 26 PROBING QUESTIONS POSED BY "JEUNE AFRIQUE" CORRESPONDENT, PRESIDENT WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND RESPONSIVE. IN TWO REPLIES, HE WAS MARKEDLY CANDID. (FIRST) "IN PAST OUR RELATIONS WERE NOT GOOD WITH MOROCCO AND WERE GOOD WITH ALGERIA. TODAY THEY ARE BAD WITH ALGERIA, UNFORTUNATELY, AND IMPROVED WITH MOROCCO. BUT WE ARE NOT ONES WHO HAVE CHANGED. IT'S THE OTHERS, IN PARTICULAR ALGERIANS. OUR RELATIONS WITH MOROCCANS IMPROVED WHEN THEY AGREED TO RESPECT OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND OUR DIGNITY. THEY WORSENEDED WITH ALGERIA BECAUSE WE REFUSED TO BE INSTRUMENT OF HOSTILITY OF ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES AGAINST THE OTHER. WE ARE NOT ALIGNED WITH ONE OF GREAT POWERS AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALIGN OURSELVES WITH SMALL AFRICAN OR ARAB POWERS." (SECOND) "THINGS HAPPEN HERE, LIKE IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE. WE FIND SOMETIMES AT VARIOUS LEVELS EXECUTIVES WHO ARE NOT HONEST. OTHER COUNTRIES PREFER TO COVER UP THESE AFFAIRS AND AVOID SCANDALS. ON THIS SCORE, I INSIST AS I DID IN 1967 THAT REAL SCANDAL IS FAILURE TO PROSECUTE AN EXECUTIVE NO MATTER HOW SENIOR IF HE IS DISHONEST; IT IS TO LEAVE UNPUNISHED A DISHONEST MAN WHATEVER LEVEL OF HIS PAST RESPONSIBILITIES... TWO MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT WERE INVOLVED. I FIRED THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE IMPLICATED IN IRREGULARITIES. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING, FIRST, THEN JUDICIAL INQUIRY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THESE TWO MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR

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THESE BREACHES OF PUBLIC TRUST."

4. FOOTNOTE: FOR SCOREKEEPERS WHO INSIST ON PINNING LABELS ON AFRICAN NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS, LET RECORD SHOW THAT COPIES OF JEUNE AFRIQUE CONTAINING POLISARIO COVER STORY WERE DELIVERED TO SUBSCRIBERS BY GIRM POST OFFICE AND WERE FREELY AVAILABLE ON NEWSTANDS--JUST AS WERE COPIES OF ISSUE WITH PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW. (AND AS WERE COPIES OF INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CONTAINING MARVINE HOWE'S PRO-POLISARIO NYTIMES STORY.)

HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, MOPS, MR, MO, AG, SS, POLISARIO, (MOKTAR OULD DADDAH), (IBRAHIM DERWIISH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009